



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 2006

## FACT SHEET

### MAYOR CHRONICLES SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES OF FIRST YEAR; CALLS CITY REFORMS “A WORK IN PROGRESS”

Commemorating his first year in office, Mayor Jerry Sanders today not only chronicled his successes over the past twelve months, but also detailed the pressing challenges that remain in order to bring meaningful and permanent reform to City Hall.

The mayor termed the reform effort a “work in progress” that will take years to fully implement. “I am grateful that we have been able to accomplish so much with the support of San Diegans,” the Mayor commented. “But I also realize that we have years of hard work before us.”

#### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Five-year financial plan proposed to address pension liability, other long-term liabilities
- Elimination of 921 FTE’s announced
- BPR fully underway: 20 launched, 10 completed
- Kroll Report released and remediation measures adopted; beginning of implementation
- Substantial progress on audits made
- SEC investigation on City completed
- Managed competition and voter-approved pension benefit ballot propositions proposed and passed; implementation ordinances proposed
- General Plan Update draft released
- \$100 million deposited into pension system
- Department re-organizations begun; Real Estate Assets Department revamped
- First Strong Mayor budget delivered with significant reforms
- Long-ignored Water/Wastewater infrastructure addressed; rate increase proposal made
- Outside audits of Water/Wastewater funds launched & completed; funds repaid
- Office of Ethics and Integrity created
- Mayor public visibility and press accessibility increased
- Police recruitment and retention plan formulated and being implemented
- Significant funding increases made to public safety equipment and technology
- Washington and Sacramento lobbying made a top priority, i.e. UASI funding

### **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CON'T)**

- City's first Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention formed
- Mt. Soledad War Memorial preservation
- First true assessment of deferred maintenance begun

### **ONGOING CHALLENGES**

- Adoption of 5 Year Financial Plan, including contributions to Pension Plan
- Full implementation of Kroll remediations
- Release of Audits and return to public capital markets so that basic infrastructure can be funded
- Ongoing BPR's and department re-organizations
- Completion of deferred maintenance list of projects
- Renegotiation of Employee Benefits/New Labor MOU's
- New Pension System
- Affordability of Employee Benefits
- Police recruitment and retention
- Lack of definition of Strong Mayor powers
- Water/Sewer infrastructure and rate structure
- Implementation of Managed Competition
- Building Public trust

### **CITY ON BETTER TRACK, ACCORDING TO VOTERS**

There has been a drastic turn-around in San Diegans' perception of whether or not the City is headed down the right or wrong track since Mayor Sanders was elected.

In survey work done by **Competitive Edge Research**, San Diegans were asked the following question on three different occasions: during the campaign for mayor, in July 2006 (after 6 months in office) and in September 2006:

"Do you think things in the City of San Diego are moving in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?"

The level of support for a "right track" answer has increased dramatically since Mayor Sanders took office. This question is an indicator for public optimism and trust in local institutions.

The 9/05 results were among the worst we had ever seen for a California municipality. Normally, these ratings change very slowly, and only in response to major changes in the local or national economy.

Attitudes shifted dramatically in the City of San Diego after Mayor Sanders had been in office for 6 months, and continued to improve as the November election approached.

	<b><u>9/05</u></b>	<b><u>7/06</u></b>	<b><u>9/06</u></b>
Right track	22%	56%	61%
Wrong track	60%	27%	25%
Unsure/Mixed	18%	17%	15%